



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2006 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE B-3

(No Additional Hunts Scheduled)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone B-3 located in portions of Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Tehama counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as any "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region Office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900).

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html>

The 2006 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone B-3 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone B-3, hunters must possess a "B" zone deer tag. This tag is valid during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take in either: Zone B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 or B-6. Season dates vary between these zones, so be sure to check the current regulations for the zone you plan to hunt.

Additionally, Archery Only #1 Tags (AO#1) and Archery Only #2 Tags (AO#2) are valid during the Zone B-3 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone B-3 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; record the appropriate "B" zone (Zone B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 or B-6) where they killed their buck; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone B-3 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in

your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within the zone are administered by the Mendocino National Forest (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, California 95988 (530-934-3316)

BLM Offices:

Ukiah Field Office, 2550 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 (707-468-4000)

Wilderness lands have been established within the Mendocino National Forest. The Snow Mountain Wilderness Area is accessible by hiking and pack stock. Public use of the wilderness is regulated by permit. Information on wilderness area restrictions and Wilderness Permits may be obtained by contacting the Mendocino National Forest.

In Zone B-3 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

The most comprehensive map of the area is the Mendocino National Forest map. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. BLM surface management maps for Zone B-3 include the Ukiah and Willows maps. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

There are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone B-3 are Interstate 5 (eastern B-3), and State Highway 162 (east-west B-3). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone B-3 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off-road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of B-3, especially in the Snow Mountain area. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone B-3. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone B-3 is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone B-3 is the Columbian black-tailed deer. Deer in Zone B-3 are generally considered resident deer. That is, their movement is up and down the slopes, they do not make long seasonal migrations. The deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in late spring and will remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone B-3 ranging from mixed chaparral, oak-woodland, and hardwood-conifer to dense conifer habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Historically, some of the more popular and productive deer hunting areas in Zone B-3 include: 7 Troughs, Alder Springs, Bald Mountain, Barb Ridge, Black Butte, Black Diamond, Board Tree, Bowman Ridge, Briscoe Canyon, Cedar Ridge, Daves Ridge, Digger Ridge, Doe Peak, Elk Creek, Fiddler Green, Four Springs, Goat Hill, Grindstone, Grizzly Flats, Hardin Ridge, Hokey Pokey Ridge, Howard Lake, Ivory Mill, Jumbo Springs, Keller Lake, Long Point, Mendocino Pass, Ocean View, Open Ridge, Pinto Ridge, Plasket Meadows, Poison Glade, Rocky Basin, Snow Mountain, St. John Mountain, Telephone Ridge,

Wells Cabin Lookout and Zumwalt Creek.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2006, there are no additional deer hunts scheduled in Zone B-3.

2006 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(2) Zone B.

(A) Area: Shall include all of Zones B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6 (see subsections 360(a)(2)(A) 1-6).

3. Zone B-3.

In those portions of Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and Tehama counties within a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 and Black Butte Reservoir Road; south on Interstate 5 to the Glenn-Colusa county line; west along the Glenn-Colusa county line to the Elk Creek-Stonyford Road (County Road 306); south on the Elk Creek-Stonyford Road to the Letts Valley-Fouts Spring Road; west on the Letts Valley-Fouts Spring Road through Fouts Spring to Forest Service Road M-10; west on Forest Service Road M-10 to the Colusa-Lake county line; north along the Colusa-Lake and Glenn-Lake county lines to the eastern boundary of State Game Refuge 2-A, near Sheetiron Mountain; north and west along the eastern and northern boundaries of State Game Refuge 2-A to the Lake-Mendocino county line; north on the Lake-Mendocino and Glenn-Mendocino county lines to the Black Butte River; northwest along the Black Butte River to the Middle Fork of the Eel River; east and north along the Middle Fork of the Eel River to Forest Highway 7 near the Eel River Work Center; east on Forest Highway 7 to the Low Gap-Government Flat Road; north on the Low Gap-Government Flat Road to the Round Valley-Paskenta Road at Government Flat; east on the Round Valley-Paskenta Road to the Black Butte Lake-Newville Road; south and east on the Black Butte Lake-Newville Road to Interstate 5 at the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The seasons for the B Zone shall be those specified for the areas described as B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6 (see subsections 360(a)(2)(B)1-6).

3. Zone B-3.

The season in Zone B-3 shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for 37 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 55,500. Zone B tags are valid in Zones B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(2) B Zones.

(A) Zones B-1 through B-3, B-5 and B-6.

1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(2)(A).

2. Season: The archery deer season in Zones B-1 through B-3, B-5 and B-6 shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days.

3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****